

Numb. 170.

MERCATOR:

O R,

Commerce Retrieved,

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British Trade*, &c.

From Tuesday, June 22. to Thursday, June 24. 1714.

A farther Replay to the Jamaica Story.

The evident Malice and Ignorance of the Tellers of that Story.

Nothing done to our People in it, but what the Spaniard ought in justice to themselves to have done.

Nothing also but what we ought to expect.

By Treaty we are obliged not to Trade to New Spain.

The Jamaica Men are Breakers of the publick Treaties.

The Spaniards cannot preserve their Colonies, or we ours, but by such Laws.

We do the same to the Spaniards, or any other Nation, if they come to Trade in our Plantations.

THE malicious Tale of the Piratical Traders of Jamaica, and of their being used as they well deserved, was the Subject of the last *Mercator*; but several things remain to be said upon that Subject for the Information of those who the Tellers of that Story would fain impose upon, by which will be seen how much Malice, and how little Wit there has been in the telling such a Tale.

The Design is evident, viz. to suggest that the Spaniards in the Spanish West-Indies are Unjust to the British, and have injuriously taken a Vessel from our Merchants in time of Peace.

For Answer, nothing of the Kind can be more unjust than to say so, for that it is the highest Justice in the Spaniards to take all our Ships, who offer to Trade on their Coast, by any Method, whether by Force or Stratagem, and on Resistance to put all the Resisters to the Sword; and in Case of taking them Prisoners, to send them to the Mines if they please, or dispose of them any other way.

1. To prove this the Monitor appeals to the Practice of the Spaniards in our former time of Peace and Commerce under King Charles II. King James II. and King William; in every one of whose Reign the *Mercator* offers to give Precedents of its being practised by the Spaniards, and acquiesced in by the English.

2. By the 11th Article of the present Treaty of Peace with Spain, it is agreed, the Trade

to the West-Indies shall remain on the same Foot as it was in the Days of King Charles II.

3. It is easie to prove, that it is for the Advantage of our Trade, as well as for the just Defence of their own Property, that the Spaniards should act thus in all their Colonies in America.

4. That abating something of personal Severity or Cruelty, which is more the Nature of the Spaniards than of the English; This Dealing of the Spaniards, with our Men from Jamaica is nothing more or less than we do by all Nations in our Colonies in America.

And lastly, that without a strict Observance of the Laws of Trade in those Cases made by us as well as by the Spaniards, the Property of Trade, and the Advantages of Colonies and Plantations in America could not be preserved to the Nations, whose Property they are; and that it is far from an Act of Injustice to the English. But the English being Aggressors in coming upon their Spanish Coast to Trade, deserve Punishment, not only from the Spaniards, but from the Laws of their own Country also; And if we were just to the Spaniards, we should not permit them to go from Jamaica; and if by stealth they do it, both Ships and Money ought to be confiscated, and the Men to be sent in Irons over to England to be punish'd as the Law should direct; or to be punish'd there by the Laws of the Colony, for in vain has England stipulated with Spain; that our People shall not Trade into their Colonies if we cannot call them to an Account when they break that Capitulation.

But



But if it be alledg'd that our Laws have not provided any Penalty or Punishment in such a Case, the *Mercator* answers, that then are the Spaniards the more justifiable in doing themselves right upon our Subjects, when we fall into their Hands, seeing either we will not, or do not, or cannot punish them when they make the Attempt.

Again, By how much the more Valuable the Trade to Spain is, the Profits being great; the Gold and Silver which is the best of Returns is Tempting, and the Trade quick and easy, by so much the more are the Spaniards justified in making the stricted Laws to prevent it, and in being very severe, nay, even to Cruelty upon those, who they find breaking in upon that Trade.

The Trade to the Spanish West-Indies is the Life and Soul of the Spanish Monarchies Wealth, without it, Spain would be the most despicable Monarchy in Europe. The Trade of Old Spain would neither subsist it self or be worth our driving, for they having no Manufactures of their own, the buying ours would so exhaust them, that in a few Years they would not be able to pay for them, nor could they take off any more of our Goods than their meer Growth of Wine, Oyl, Fruit and Wooll, could pay for.

Their Colonies in New Spain are the essential part of their Wealth, and makes them so considerable in the World, who would otherwise be the most Contemptible Nation in Europe.

If we were to suppose the Spaniards insensible of this, we must suppose them at the same time the most stupid and stupified People in the Universe, and as they are sensible of it, they would be equally so if they were not as careful as possible to prevent the Encroachments of all *European* Nations upon this Trade, and to fall upon all those who attempt it with the utmost Violence.

The *Mercator* is not ignorant what these Men suggest, (viz.) That the Spaniards admit the French to Trade with them now, at the same time that we are excluded; but they beg this Question with a Witness, till they can prove it, and till they can give us an Account of one French Ship arrived there since the Peace; what might be before the War was ended, is quite another Case, and not at all to the purpose.

Since the War, things are to return to their former Channel, and as far as time would allow, are so return'd; and as the People of Jamaica always were the greatest Encroachers upon the Spanish West-Indies of any other *European* Nations, they have, if the Story publish'd be true, play'd them this Prank for their Warning, for which Nobody can blame

the Spaniards, or justify the Jamaica Men; so they have their Amends in their own Hands.

It remains, that we give some Account of this Clandestine Trade of the Jamaica Merchants, and put our Trade Preservers, as they ridiculously call themselves, in mind, how much of the Trade to Jamaica is to be called the Trade to Spain, and ought to be placed to the Account of the Trade to Spain, to help to make it out, that we lose by Trading with the Spaniards; but of that hereafter. In the mean time, here's another Specimen of the Trade to France.

From the Custom-House.

Exported to France in Seven Days,

June 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17.

8 Spanish Cloths
 * 11 Short Cloths
 36 Stuffs
 58 Kerfies
 87½ dozen Hose
 12 Serges
 2000 yards Cloth Lifts
 40 lb. Cloth Remnants
 19 Blankets
 6 Hats
 6 dozen Whips
 40 dozen Calve-skins
 400 lb. Coney Wooll
 28 lb. Silk Hose
 1012 Canes
 12000 Horn Plates
 22 C. 3 qr. 14 lb. Wrought Iron
 1 C. 2 qr. 14 lb. Wrought Brass
 1 C. 14 lb. Haberdashery
 325 ps Mullins and East-India Silks
 2 Casks Syder and Bottles
 Certain Apparel in two Bales
 Certain China Ware
 10 Desks and Book Cases
 4 Watches
 110 Firkins Butter
 1520 Glafs Bottles
 16 Ton 12 C. Copperas
 50 Fodder 18 C. Lead
 2 Ton 1 C. Red Lead
 1 Ton 41 Gal. Canary
 14 Ton Iron
 3 Ton Allom
 3 Ton 12 C. Block Tin
 12 Ton Logwood
 1 Ton Cheese
 8 Chaldron Coals
 * 2 Ton Rice
 * 1 Ton Brown Sugar
 * 15 C. Corrants
 56 lb. Pewter
 10 qr. Oat Meal
 100 qr. Rye
 5159 lb. Pimento
 117490 lb. Virginia Tobacco



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